

Committee meeting of Somerset Contract Bridge Association via Zoom
23rd November

Present

Tony Russ Chairman
Sheree Pavey Secretary
Frank Coltman
Ceri Pierce
Richard Feetenby Treasurer
Paul Burgess
Andy Ridgers
Simon Brooke

Apologies

Eric Cummings
Colin Simcox

Tony Russ opened the meeting by detailing the continuing success of online bridge using BBO including the county's sixth lockdown league. As well as the daily games on BBO, one game was played on Sundays using Real Bridge.

This was considered to be successful not just because revenue was generated but for the service this provided to clubs and members. In addition to the games run by SCBA there were now 10 virtual clubs running in the county.

Tony was disappointed to note that

- (1) there appeared to be a lack of enthusiasm exhibited by some of the clubs to keep active; and
- (2) that nearly all teaching had stopped.

Simon Brooke then talked about the return of face to face bridge. An email detailing the issues had been circulated and is attached to these minutes. Overall, it was thought that face to face bridge was still not expected to recommence until late spring.

Ceri had had a very positive experience of a bridge holiday in Madeira. The hygiene measures were very rigorous as was social distancing. Overall, she felt safe and enjoyed the experience.

It was decided to survey SCBA members about their views as to under what conditions they would return to face to face bridge **ACTION- Simon**

The Treasurer then detailed the financial situation.

The online experience had proved to be very healthy. At the start of lockdown, it was thought that the association would suffer financially with no income but continued residual costs e.g insurance but the opposite has proved true.

During the month of June £1,100 was generated,
July £340
August £700; and
September £480

Online bridge has generated approximately £3,000 towards the running costs of SCBA

The online Congress was especially successful

At the outset a profit of £1,000 would have been considered successful in reality £2,000 was generated. The financial layout was absolutely minimum with no venue hire or prizes

The Swiss Teams generated £1,700

The gross surplus from events is £4400 so after costs to date of £800 SCBA has a surplus of £3600.

There remains £4,000 in the sponsorship fund

In total there is just shy of £41,000 in the account (savings and bonds).

Moreover, the projected revenue over the next six months will be around £6,500.

Participation in online events had proved very successful with the virtual clubs,

Fivehead was averaging 10 tables

Coxley 8

Crewkerne 14

Mendip 7

Taunton 8

Wells 8

Frome 7

Axe 11

Clevedon 9

(Round figure estimates)

Castle Cary/Sherborne recently started on Realbridge with about 10 tables

The Axe club (Wedmore, Cheddar & Winscombe) has shown what can be achieved by clubs working together and have now expanded to two meetings per week.

Tony highlighted the possibilities offered to clubs in the future to add to their weekly programme of face to face bridge with an unlimited number of online sessions at various times of the day and for various groups.

Frank Coltman gave a run-down of tournaments projected for the second half of the competition year.

14 teams had signed up for the forthcoming Swiss Teams

NGS under 9 / Newcomer's tournament had been arranged for the 6th December

Men's and Ladies' pairs tournament arranged for the 12th December and Swiss pairs on the 3rd January.

Championship Pairs arranged for the 14th February.

The Michael Coda Cup had been organised for the first week of February.

The logistics of organising this event excluded people from playing more than once. It was considered unfair that some players may not be able to play on certain evenings, certainly if they were attended different clubs. Frank agreed they could look at this and tweak the structure so as to avoid disappointing those that were excluded from playing more than once per week.

Clic Sarjent was the charity chosen by Sheila Coda.

Andy Ridgers then gave an update of the resurrection of the Western League. This season was likely to be online. 4 possible dates had been put forward starting in January. Discussions are continuing as to the format of the competition.

Role Changes

Frank would switch from being tournament organiser to take on the West of England Congress.,
Colin would take on tournament organiser.

Tony raised the upcoming EBU elections and everybody agreed that Rob Lawy should get our support as well as Adrian Darnell who had been campaigning for election. It was felt that it would benefit the EBU to have a representative from the North East which is Adrian Darnell originates.

Tony thanked Paul for preparing and sending out the SCBA newsletter.

There followed some discussion as to how to distribute surplus funds to the clubs. It was felt that this should be dealt with on the return of face to face clubs when funds may be required to get going again. Frank felt it would be better if clubs applied for funds, and the merit of the application being considered individually, rather than SCBA just dishing it out.

Tony was keen to set aside £4,000 to encourage clubs to set up teaching as swiftly as possible.

ACTION - TONY

AOB

Tony agreed to contact Woolavington Village Hall to ascertain the current terms and conditions on renting the hall.